

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

July 3, 2013

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Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown
DHMH Secretary Josh Sharfstein

The Center for Health Literacy and Atlantic General Hospital to Draft Health Literacy Standards for Worcester County K-8 Curriculum



CENTER FOR HEALTH LITERACY

Atlantic General Hospital is the recipient of a \$40,000 grant from Perdue Farms to further its efforts to improve the health literacy of Worcester County's youth. Atlantic General has renewed their focus on education and preventive health services. Under this plan, they have developed a partnership with the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy at the University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health to

draft a set of health literacy standards for the K-8 public school curriculum. No such standards for public schools currently exist in the U.S.

Once the standards are complete, the hospital's community education department will work with the University of Maryland and the Worcester County Board of Education to develop the specific lessons and resources to apply these standards in the classroom on target for the 2014-2015 school year. The integration of health literacy principles will vary depending on grade level. Such lessons might include having students calculate their calorie intake based upon information on a food label or the proper medication dosage depending on their weight during a math lesson. For kindergarten, principles may be as simple as a hand washing exercise. In the interim, the partners plan to extend ad hoc health literacy lessons introduced to the county's after school programs this past year to K-8 class instruction beginning in the fall.

"Improving the health literacy of the next generation is critical to the adoption of healthier lifestyles and proper utilization of healthcare services," said Michael Franklin, CEO of Atlantic General Hospital. "Individuals have to understand basic health principles before they can become active and effective partners in their own care. We're very pleased with the plan that has been put in place for the Worcester County Public Schools."

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

CHRC Issues Grant Awards to Improve Population

Health and Reduce Health Costs

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) announced seven grant awards totaling \$1.3 million to help promote the activities of Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs) and the State Health Improvement Process (SHIP). Launched in 2011 by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, SHIP provides the framework for accountability, local action, and public engagement to improve overall health in Maryland. The CHRC grant awards are designed to expand access in underserved communities in the state, improve overall population health, and help reduce health care costs by reducing hospital admissions and re-admissions.



"The CHRC grants are an important part of our efforts to expand access to care and reduce health disparities in our most underserved communities around Maryland," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "By providing resources directly to local communities that need them most, we are going to see improved health outcomes and a better quality of life for more Marylanders."

"The Commission's support will provide valuable resources to the State Health Improvement Process," said Laura Herrera, M.D, Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services, DHMH. "The CHRC is an important partner in our ongoing efforts to improve population health and reduce hospital admissions and re-admissions."

Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

Click [here](#) for a list of the individual grant awards to LHICs.

Click [here](#) to access copies of the successful proposals on the CHRC Web site.

Click [here](#) to visit the SHIP Web site.

Program Connecting Primary Care Providers to Mental Health Services for Youth to Expand



As of July 1, a program that supports the efforts of primary care providers who see children and youth to assess and manage mental health concerns in their patients, expanded to serve the entire state. Maryland Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (B-HIPP), supported by funding from the Departments of Health and Education, launched in January 2013 in Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

The program aims to make managing child and adolescent mental health problems more routine in primary care settings, and to make it an efficient and effective gateway to specialty mental health care.

"This program connects pediatric clinicians around the state to mental health professionals for consultation and guidance," said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. "This kind of innovation will improve the care of Maryland's children."

Assistance is offered through four main components, all of which are available to primary care providers without charge and without regard to a patient's insurance status:

1. Phone Consultation Service
2. Continuing Education
3. Referral & Resource Networking
4. Social Work Co-Location

To date, B-HIPP has enrolled over 100 primary care providers who see children and youth, and has now opened their services to all such primary care providers across the state of Maryland.

Providers are encouraged to learn more about and sign up for B-HIPP by clicking [here](#) or by contacting Program Director, Meghan Crosby Budinger at [410-955-8669](tel:410-955-8669) or clicking [here](#) to e-mail her.

Click [here](#) to read the full press release and learn more about the four main components of B-HIPP.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) to reduce the number of ED visits related to behavioral health conditions.

Quality Healthcare for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender People: A Four-Part Cultural Competence Webinar Series

***Part 3: Clinical Skills for the Care of Transgender Individuals
Thursday, July 11 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.***

This webinar series is a project of GLMA in collaboration with the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Building on the first two parts of GLMA's cultural competence webinar series exploring the health concerns and healthcare of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, Part 3 will focus on clinical skills for the care of transgender individuals, including behavioral health. View the first and second webinars in this series at www.glma.org and www.hopkinshealthdisparities.org.

The webinar will be framed using GLMA's "Top Ten Things Transgender Persons Should Discuss with Their Health Providers," an evidence-based patient education resource. During this 90-minute webinar, the presenters will provide clinical best practices on salient health issues for the transgender population.

For more information or questions, click [here](#) to e-mail Cheri Wilson.

Click [here](#) to register.

Click [here](#) to read a SHIP issue brief entitled "Protecting the Health of Sexual Minorities."

Webinar: Affordable Care Act 101

Thursday, July 11 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



FOR
HEALTH
CARE
REFORM

Join the MD Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform on Thursday, July 11 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. for a webinar about the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

and Maryland's implementation. The speakers will provide an overview of the ACA, Maryland Health Connection and outreach and education efforts.

The presenters are: Leni Preston, Coalition Chair; Adrienne Ellis with the Mental Health Association of Maryland; and Sheila Mackertich with HealthCare Access Maryland, a Connector Entity.

Click [here](#) to register.

